

IMPROVEMENTS
Punta Gorda has more improvements than any other Florida town of its size. Paved streets, sidewalks, sewerage, electric lights, waterworks, etc.

The Punta Gorda Herald

POPULATION
The 1915 census gave Punta Gorda a population of 1,772. It has grown steadily since then and the present population is estimated at 2,000.

Punta Gorda, in Tropical Southwest Florida, is Advantageously Located on Charlotte Harbor, One of the Largest Land-Locked Bays on the Gulf of Mexico, and is a Town with a Bright Future, Commercially and Agriculturally

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PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY, MAY 6th, 1920

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COMMERCIAL CLUB MEETS FRIDAY NIGHT

Will be Important and Interesting Meeting—Many Matters Awaiting Attention of the Club

The regular monthly meeting of the Commercial Club, which will be held tomorrow, Friday night, will be an unusually interesting one and it is hoped that there may be a large attendance. There are so many things of importance requiring the club's consideration and action it is likely that hereafter meetings will be held weekly instead of monthly. This is one of the things that will be decided at the meeting tomorrow night.

A large number of Punta Gordans will go with the motorcade to Fort Myers today and a committee will report what they saw and heard at the meeting in Fort Myers; there will be reports from special committees appointed to handle matters pertaining to the completion of the Tamiami trail by the construction of a straight road from here to Fort Myers, and other matters of equal interest and importance will be discussed.

A committee from Fort Myers, accompanied by J. C. Lewis, in whose car they went, made a tour of inspection covering every foot of the road between Charlotte Harbor and Tampa early last week and these gentlemen returned greatly pleased with what they saw and the reception and enthusiasm they met with at Sarasota, Bradentown and Manatee, all of which places were visited. These places, as a unit, are ready and anxious to co-operate with Punta Gorda and Fort Myers in getting State and Federal aid to complete the trail.

The committee found that there is a fairly good road all the way from Charlotte Harbor to Tampa, most of the distance being paved with permanent or semi-permanent material. The only bad road found was between Charlotte Harbor and Venice, and this is by no means impassible.

Isn't It Funny.
That the man who thinks he is a business man will get up in the morning from an advertised mattress, shave with an advertised razor, take off advertised pajamas and put on advertised underwear, advertised hose, shirt, collar, tie, seat himself at the table and eat advertised breakfast food, drink advertised coffee or substitute, put on an advertised hat, light an advertised cigar, go to his place of business, and turn down advertising on the ground that advertising doesn't pay.—Belgrade (Mont) Journal.

GRAHAM NOMINATED

Bradentown Man Brought Out on Anti-Division Platform

At a meeting of Arcadia's and Manatee county men at Bradentown last Wednesday, John A. Graham was nominated as a candidate for the state senate from the 27th senatorial district, comprising DeSoto and Manatee counties, "as Manatee county's choice for said position," according to the DeSoto County News.

Following is the report of the meeting as given in the paper named, and it is presumed that the report is authentic:

"At a meeting of citizens of Manatee county held in Bradentown Wednesday, J. W. Stevens, mayor of Bradentown, was elected chairman and S. C. Corwin secretary.

"The question of the selection of a candidate from Manatee county to represent the 27th senatorial district in the legislature was thoroughly discussed. After due deliberation, Major John A. Graham was placed in nomination as Manatee county's choice for said position, and on vote was unanimously nominated.

"A delegation from DeSoto county was present at the meeting, and this delegation, by a unanimous vote, endorsed the choice of Manatee county and pledged their support to Major Graham. A committee was appointed by the chairman to notify Major Graham of his nomination. This duty was performed, the major accepting the nomination in a few appropriate words. The chairman was authorized in connection with Major Graham to appoint a campaign committee, a finance committee and a campaign manager."

At the Presbyterian Church.
Sunday morning, Major Sutherland will give a sermon appropriate to Mother's Day. In the evening he will speak of the mysteries of Egypt as related to Jewish history.

ASKS \$25,000 DAMAGES.

Joe Washington Suing Carl Carlson and Wife for Alleged Libel.

Joseph B. Washington, a member of the Klusel and Washington Fur Company, of Punta Gorda, has brought suit against Carl A. Carlson and wife, Caroline Carlson, through Judge W. D. Bell, alleging libel and asking for damages in the sum of \$25,000. It is said that the suit is the result of anonymous letters alleged to have been written by Mrs. Carlson. If the evidence presented at the trial is such as alleged in the complaint there will be some interesting testimony.

Renfro-Summeralls.

A marriage license was issued to J. E. Renfro, of Punta Gorda, and Fannie Summeralls, of Brownville, Monday, and they were united in marriage that afternoon by County Judge Walden at his office in Arcadia.

HARDEE VIRTUALLY SAYS HE WILL APPROVE BILL

Will Certainly Not Veto Any Reasonable Measure, He Says

Last week, having heard the story that Cary Hardee, candidate for governor, had promised a coterie of Arcadian politicians that if he is elected governor he will veto any bill that may be passed by the next legislature dividing DeSoto county, the Herald wrote Mr. Hardee and asked him to deny or confirm the story. He denied it. The editor of the Moore Haven Times went even further, it seems, and asked Mr. Hardee if he would approve the bill. In his reply to Mr. Stevens, Mr. Hardee virtually promised that he would approve the division bill if passed, saying that the matter is one for the people themselves to decide.

Here is the letter from Mr. Hardee to Mr. Stevens, as it appeared in the last issue of the Moore Haven Times: "I am just in receipt of your favor of the 19th inst. advising me of a current report to the effect that if elected governor I have promised certain Arcadia people to veto county division bills effecting DeSoto county. Of course I am glad that you have done me the kindness of asking as to the truth or falsity of this report. However it does occur to me that the people of DeSoto county generally would not believe such a report. I did not discuss county division while in Arcadia with anybody and I have made no statement to anyone with reference to county division. If anybody whether at Arcadia or elsewhere has undertaken to say what my attitude would be they have done so on their own initiative, and without authority from me. It is a question with which I have nothing to do. It is certainly not an issue in my campaign for the governorship, and I do not want to be in the attitude of either saying in private or public anything which could be used to effect those local questions. I am neither opposing or supporting county division in DeSoto county. It is peculiarly a question to be decided by yourselves. First in the selection of your representatives, and later by the legislature of the state when assembled, and let me be perfectly frank in saying that I will approve any reasonable bill which the legislature may pass.

"My conception of the veto power, placed by the Constitution in the hands of the governor, is one to be used only in special cases. Certainly the governor is not given the veto power to use for the purpose of thwarting the legislative will. If I am governor there will be no prohibition of executive power to serve private ends. Every question that comes before me will be decided on its merits irrespective of who may favor or oppose it. No man or set of men will have a 'pull' with me in its sinister sense, but every man or set of men will have a 'pull' with me when there is merit back of their claims.

"The report above referred to, false and unjust as it is, was no doubt started by some political enemy of mine with a view of injuring my candidacy. In these closing days of this campaign I want to caution the men who are standing with me for better government in Florida, not be led astray by the false accusations of demagogues and cheap politicians.

"In as much as you have written me very pointedly asking for a definite expression, do you not think it fair to me to also write my opponents asking them for an expression along the same line. I am having to meet in this campaign all sorts of false propaganda, this one fact, however, indicates that I am far in the lead, else I would not be the subject of the combined attacks of my opponents."

FIDELITY TRUST CO., NEW BANK, WILL BEGIN BUSINESS HERE ABOUT MIDDLE OF JUNE

New Concern Capitalized at \$50,000 and all Stock is Subscribed. Prominent Local and County Men are Stockholders. Handsome Building to be Erected in Near Future, Said.

Punta Gorda is soon going to have another banking institution — the Fidelity Trust Company, with a capital stock of \$50,000, all of which was subscribed before organization of the company was announced. The new institution will have as its stockholders and directors and officers the leading business men of Punta Gorda, Sebring, Avon Park and Arcadia and will commence business about the 15th or 20th of June, in some temporary quarters.

The Fidelity Trust Company will be capitalized at \$50,000, which has been subscribed by the following men: George E. Sebring, of Sebring, \$5,000; Cyril Baldwin, of Arcadia, \$2,500; F. M. Cooper, of Punta Gorda, \$5,000; D. N. McQueen, of Punta Gorda, \$1,000; H. R. Dreggers, of Punta Gorda, \$1,000; Joshua Mizell, of Punta Gorda, \$5,000; E. W. Smith, of Punta Gorda, \$2,000; C. A. Skipper, of Avon Park, \$10,000; C. E. Lanier, of Avon Park, \$10,000; Ira Rigdon, of Sebring, \$8,500.

Until the officers are elected at the first annual meeting of the stockholders, the following officers will conduct the company's affairs: F. M. Cooper, president; Ira Rigdon, vice president; H. R. Dreggers, vice president; C. E. Lanier, secretary; C. E. Lanier, treasurer; C. E. Lanier, cashier. The officers, C. W. Smith, C. A. Skipper, Geo. E. Sebring, J. Mizell and D. N. McQueen will compose the board of directors.

It is proposed that the new company will open for business in some temporary quarters about the 15th or 20th of June, which will be occupied until a home for the company can be erected. According to Messrs. Skipper and Rigdon, a handsome banking building will be erected in the near future on a prominent corner facing Marian avenue and it is probable that the building contemplated will cost in the neighborhood of \$100,000, although neither of the gentlemen named mentioned that sum.

While the new company will be chartered to conduct a "general banking and trust business," plans of the stockholders include many things that will have a great deal to do with the future growth and prosperity of Punta Gorda and surrounding country.

Organization of the company has not been hastily accomplished, the first discussion of the matter having taken place months ago, and as will be noticed in the notice to apply for letters patent published in this issue of the Herald, stock in the company was subscribed for on or before the 14th of February. It is not the plan of the original stockholders, however, to hold all of their stock, but many persons will be given an opportunity to subscribe for whatever reasonable amount they may wish to take and the present stockholders will surrender a share of their stock to them, as it is wished to interest as many local people in the company as possible in order to make it, as much as possible, a strictly locally owned and controlled concern.

Didn't Stop at \$15.

The Punta Gorda Herald last week told of the sale of a quantity of early peppers for an average price of \$15 a crate. The story makes us think of Peter Piper, and we wonder if he would have made a fortune picking peppers and then it seems certain, provided he picked them from his own place. The Herald's report was to the effect that thirty-one crates of peppers sold for \$465; and then there is another story about the sale of twenty-six crates for \$13 a crate.—Florida Grower.

Weather Forecast.

Forecast for the period May 3 to 8 inclusive.

South Atlantic and East Gulf States: Occasional showers. East Gulf states, local showers probable. South Atlantic states, except the Carolinas, first half of week; nearly normal temperatures.—Frankenfield.

NEGROES SUBSCRIBE FOR \$510 WORTH CLUB STOCK

Colored Folk Subscribe Liberally to Golf Club Stock

At a meeting of the colored people of Punta Gorda last Wednesday night, called by E. W. Rountree to ascertain their attitude toward the golf course, every negro man present subscribed to stock in the club, the total amount subscribed within about three minutes being \$510.

After explaining the object of the meeting, Mr. Rountree appointed the following committee to solicit subscriptions and conduct the campaign among the colored people: Rev. W. W. Hamilton, chairman; A. Bailey, H. W. Walker and A. C. Dorsey. S. P. Andrews is secretary. After organization of the committee subscriptions were called for and those whose names appear below subscribed the amount set opposite their names:

Rev. W. W. Hamilton	\$30
A. Bailey	30
H. W. Walker	30
A. C. Dorsey	30
Leonard Dams	30
W. E. Word	10
Simon Thomas	30
Jack Dams	30
Wm. Brown	30
S. P. Andrews	50
S. C. Gater	30
I. H. Hamilton	20
G. B. Cromartie	20
Joe Coleman	20
Silas Fulton	20
A. Stephens	40
Mack Gallman	40
Total	\$510

Back to the Land of Cotton.

J. J. Haslett, of Punta Gorda, who has been making his home since mid-winter with his daughter, Mrs. Walter A. Kaker, at 606 North Polk avenue, this city, left Tuesday morning for Guthrie, Okla., his old home. His son, Elmer E. Haslett, is very ill in Guthrie with rheumatism. Mr. Haslett will remain until fall.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO GOLF CLUB TOTAL \$9,380.00

Subscriptions Coming Rather Slowly, But Coming Nevertheless

Subscriptions to the Punta Gorda Golf and Country Club, while not as numerous and large as might be expected, during the past week, amount to \$1730, this amount including \$510 subscribed by the colored people and not included in the total of \$7,600 as reported last week. As near as can be ascertained, \$9,380 is the total subscribed to date, leaving approximately \$7,170 yet to be raised.

Here is how the subscription list looked up to noon Wednesday.

Previously reported	\$7,600
Subscribed by colored people	510
R. K. Seward	200
Chas. Cochran	200
A. J. Kinsel	200
J. R. Jack	100
W. H. Johnson	100
M. C. Price	100
John M. Weeks	50
Albert A. Coup	50
Miss Norma Pepper	50
S. P. Bruton	50
H. G. Lyons	40
W. W. Knight	50
Mrs. Habersham King	30
Total	\$9,380

Barlow Announces

In this issue of the Herald will be found the announcement of Ingram P. Barlow of Wauchula, who is a candidate for county judge. He is a graduate of the law department of the University of Florida, has been actively engaged in the practice of law in DeSoto county for four years and feels that he is fully qualified to discharge the duties of the office in a manner satisfactory to all.

George W. Gatewood, of Punta Gorda, came up last Friday and spent the week-end with his daughter, Mrs. Leo Huffman, on West Granger street. — DeSoto County News, 30th.

STOLE WATCH, IS ALLEGED.

Negro in Jail at Arcadia Charged With Taking Engineer's Ticker.

Herbert Myrch, col., was arrested at Nocatee Monday by Deputies T. S. Carlton and E. A. Garner on the charge of stealing a watch from F. C. Herndon, engineer on the log train. The negro was taken to jail and confessed to his captors that he is guilty and gave them the stolen watch which they returned to the engineer.

The watch was stolen on April 11th and the sheriff has had his hooks out for the thief ever since. The watch was taken from his overalls pockets while hanging in the cab of the locomotive.

Myrch is in jail on account of lack of bond.

Baptist Convention.

The Peace River Baptist Association's Fifth Sunday Meeting will be held with the Fort Green Church on May 28, 29 and 30.

INJURED MAN SAVED BY LAD'S PRESENCE OF MIND

Injured Man Saved From Drowning by Boy's Quick Action

What would undoubtedly have been a fatal accident but for the rare presence of mind of Dick Cooper, 17-year-old son of Senator Cooper, occurred at the fish docks at about 10 o'clock Wednesday morning.

A lighter that had been towed in by the Teddy was being made fast and a line was thrown by Glen Coston to a man known as Pedro who is employed by the West Coast Fish Co. Pedro made an effort to catch the line and in this effort stepped upon a plank in the dock that extended a considerable distance from the supporting beam. The plank gave way and Pedro made an effort to jump to the deck of the boat below. Instead of landing on the deck, as he descended he was caught under the arm by a high piling, suffering considerable injury to his arm and side. After striking the piling he was thrown to the deck, and there, to save himself from going overboard, caught a heavy barrel. In the scramble he fell overboard, followed by the heavy barrel, which struck him on the head and rendered him unconscious. He began to sink immediately. Young Cooper, who was standing nearby, without hesitation, went to the man's rescue. Cooper jumped in feet first, straddling Pedro's form, about which Cooper wound his legs, locking his feet on the other side. Cooper then took hold of a line that had been thrown him and with Mr. Coston's assistance succeeded in landing the half-dead man.

Doctors McQueen and Blount were summoned and gave the unfortunate man medical aid. While dangerously injured by the blow on the head and suffering from other injuries, there is hope that Pedro will recover.

Will Filed and Probated.

The will of the late W. A. Cook was filed for record in Arcadia on last Monday. Mr. Cook was well known here, having spent all the winters in this city for a number of years past. He owned a valuable property on Taylor street which property, under the terms of the will, goes to the Presbyterian church of Cynthiana, Ky., the residuary legatee. Mrs. Wilson, a sister, who was so favorably known here, received \$2000.00, and other individual bequests amounting to \$17,000.00 were made, including one of \$500.00 to the White Oak Methodist church of Cynthiana. Georgia Cook, the widow, received nothing under the will, as she had relinquished all interest in the estate by ante-nuptial agreement. Mr. Cook having settled quite a large sum of money on her. It is said that there has been an attempt made to dispose of the property here by title alleged to have come from the widow, but the widow has no interest whatever in the place and, under the will, no title can be obtained except thru the executor who is directed by the will to sell all real estate, except the residence in Cynthiana, which was willed to a daughter, the proceeds to make up a fund for the Presbyterian church.

Walden Announces

In this issue of the Herald will be found the announcement of County Judge Irvin S. Walden, who is a candidate to succeed himself. Judge Walden is a Charlotte Harbor boy who has made good in the office to which he was appointed and now asks that he be given a full term as judge. He was in Punta Gorda yesterday meeting the voters and making new friends.

Miss Anne Van Ness Blanchet, city librarian of Anniston, Ala., arrived Monday night on a visit to her parents, Dr. and Mrs. C. T. Blanchet.

DIVISIONISTS MARCHING ON TO VICTORY

Sebring Meeting Was Harmonious Committee Turns Its Face From Everything Except Division

The Sebring meeting of the executive committee for county division held at the place named last Wednesday, was attended by delegates from all four corners of the county, and it was an enthusiastic and harmonious one from start to finish.

Capt. J. J. O'Brien and Andy Carter, delegates from Moore Haven, reported that the registration there was unusually heavy and that fully 90 per cent of the votes cast would be for county division. Mr. Reck, representative from Avon Park, said that the registration in his section was larger than was ever dreamed of and he, too, is sure that 90 per cent of the votes in that section will be for division. A. G. Smith and Mr. Williams, of Wauchula, said that their section would cast at least 300 more votes than Arcadia. Messrs. Johnson and Carrier, Punta Gorda representatives, told the meeting that this section would cast an extraordinary large vote, which will be practically 100 per cent for division. Sebring's representative was there with an equally optimistic report and stated that at least twice the usual number had registered and that fully 90 per cent of the votes cast would be for division.

Every section has provided its share of the funds necessary to wage the campaign and it is the consensus of opinion that this is the last of many division contests. The proposed new counties will cast at least 1,000 more votes than the Arcadia district and the few towns within Arcadia's influence, giving the anti-divisionists every vote registered. According to a prominent Arcadian who was in Punta Gorda a few days ago, if it were not for the influence of the office holders there fully 75 per cent of Arcadia's vote would be cast for division, and taking that into consideration he estimates that nearly 50 per cent would be division votes.

The committee has resolutely turned its face from everything except county division. It will have nothing to do, in one way or the other with any other local or state issues. "Cooper for the senate, Ethridge for the house; five county division." That is the committee's slogan and platform and it will allow nothing to interfere with its program for waging a successful campaign on this issue.

CITIZENSHIP CLASS.

Women Are Preparing Themselves for full Citizenship.

Twenty women gathered on May fourth in the Tourist Club room. After an opening song, their class leader read extracts from a lecture by Walter J. Willard on proportional representation. Class work on methods now being used in primaries followed.

Mrs. Walmire presented an article concerning the annual appropriation of \$40,000 for the Women's Bureau in the U. S. Department of Labor. This is the only Government bureau devoted primarily to the interests of 12,000,000 wage-earning women and an increase in the amount heretofore appropriated is hoped for.

A statement that 6,000,000 of America's children are underfed because the increase in living costs has been greater than the increase in wages, was brought to the attention of the class.

Mrs. S. J. Hewitt read an article presenting the suggestion that amendments would be required before women could legally vote in some states, because of the wording of state constitutions. In opposition to this idea, a decision from Judge Hughes was read which clearly indicates that women of the United States would have full citizenship as soon as the 36th state ratified the Susan B. Anthony amendment.

The next meeting will be held in the Tourist Club room on May 11th at 3:30. The course is open to all.

Sentence Suspended.

The boys accused of throwing eggs at the residence of Prof. J. L. Chandler, of Charlotte Harbor, were tried before Judge J. Irvin Walden Tuesday and sentence was suspended on the payment of costs. The three oldest boys were found guilty of unlawful assembly and fined \$5 and costs each which they paid. — DeSoto County News, 30th.